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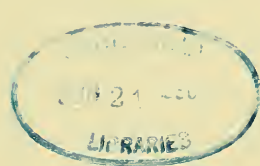




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ceramics by picasso

28TH MARCH - 10TH MAY, 1958

INTRODUCTION

Although Pablo Picasso has worked in ceramics only a comparatively short time, his fresh approach to this age-old art has produced much that is new, and has exerted a considerable influence upon ceramists today. Until now, however, no large body of Picasso's ceramic work has been displayed in New York; and the Cooper Union Museum is happy in profiting by the temporary presence in the United States of a large and representative selection of the artist's work in this medium.

The majority of objects in the exhibition are the personal property of Picasso and were selected by him for exhibition. Numbers 60-84, 86 and 87 are lent by the Poterie Madoura, Vallauris, France, and still others are owned by lenders listed individually in the catalogue. While all the ceramics were baked under the supervision of Monsieur and Madame Georges Ramié at the Poterie Madoura, they fall into varying categories: Pieces, modelled by Picasso himself or fashioned into shapes specified by Picasso at the Poterie Madoura, that are decorated and glazed by Picasso's own hand (Nos. 1-59); others, stamped "Empreinte Originale de Picasso" (Nos. 60-85), produced in limited editions from moulds specially prepared and carved by Picasso; and yet others (Nos. 86-92) stamped "Edition Picasso", that are copies or interpretations of an original ceramic by Picasso, all decoration and glazing by the staff of the Poterie Madoura.

Picasso's first venture into ceramics was accidental. In 1946 he rented a studio in Golfe Juan on the French Riviera. A local painter one day invited Picasso to visit a pottery workshop in the neighboring village of Vallauris, the Poterie Madoura. During his visit, Picasso was persuaded to try his hand

and modelled a small bull. In this casual way began Picasso's fascination with ceramics, a fascination that during the past ten years has led to the production of ceramic objects of almost every type and shape imaginable.

Plates, plaques, jugs, vases, human and animal shapes have supplanted rectangular canvas as recipients of Picasso's creative force, each conceived as a whole, the color and line of its surface organically at one with its form. In the creation of his unique, highly personal forms, Picasso shows an amazing familiarity with ceramic history, sometimes suggesting the black-figured ware of ancient Greece, sometimes developing the color-sense of eighteenth-century European faience. With equal ease he makes his comment, slyly or openly comic, on standard types of ceramic wares that have long since lost the power to communicate any fresh message of their own; and he is not above making the same sort of joke that good-humored potters have always delighted in sharing with their kilns.

Working in ceramics, Picasso has found a solution to the instability of oil paint, which is subject to gradual deterioration, since the colors of clays and glazes, once fired, never change. One is reminded of Théophile Gautier's century-old admonition to the painter:

. . . fixe la couleur
Trop frêle
Au four de l'émailleur

In offering this selection of Pablo Picasso's ceramics to its visitors, the Cooper Union Museum records its thanks to Monsieur Picasso for his generosity in lending these examples of his work, and to Monsieur Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler for his help in the necessary arrangements. To Mr. Henri Marceau, Mr. Henry Clifford and Miss Gertrude Toomey, of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is due the Museum's gratitude for their unfailing kindness in the transfer from Philadelphia to New York of the pieces recently shown there. The owners of additional pieces included in the exhibition — Fine Arts Associates, Mrs. Jacques Français, Mrs. Albert D. Lasker, Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Sachs, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zadok — have also been most generous in their loans.



CATALOGUE NUMBER 1

- 1 Goat and Flute Player.** Plaque
14 June, 1948, $8 \frac{1}{8} \times 10 \frac{5}{8}$
Red clay, colored slips, incised
- 2 Still Life with Coffeepot.** Plaque
August, 1948, $39 \frac{3}{8} \times 39 \frac{3}{8}$
Fire clay with slip and glaze decoration
- 3 Faun Face.** Shallow dish
1 February, 1949, D $14 \frac{5}{8}$
Slip underglaze carved and relief effects.
Eyes and nose formed by a kilnspur
- 4 Fish.** Bowl
1 July, 1950, D 11
Incised design on red clay
- 5 Decorated Cruet.** Six-handled vase
c. 1951, H $16 \frac{1}{2}$
Black and blue slip on biscuit
- 6 Frog.** Six-handled vase
c. 1951, H $16 \frac{1}{2}$
Black and blue slip on biscuit
- 7 Dots and Dabs.**
Two-handled pot with cover
c. 1952, H $16 \frac{1}{2}$
White tin glaze with metal oxides



CATALOGUE NUMBER 8

- 8 Bulls and Foliage.** Two-handled vase
c. 1952, H 28 $\frac{3}{4}$
Glazed with resist design
- 9 Double Face.** Vase in shape of a cock
c. 1952, H 26
Black slip on white fire clay
- 10 Two Faces.** Pitcher
6 January, 1953, H 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Decorated with metal oxide glazes and
paraffin resist
- 11 Pigeon Standing.**
7 January, 1953, H 5 $\frac{7}{8}$
Black slip
- 12 Four Faces.** Vase
26 January, 1953, H 22
Metal oxides on white tin glaze, incised
- 13 Pigeon on its Nest.**
29 January, 1953, H 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Black and blue slip
- 14 Dabs.** Dish
4 March, 1953, D 15 $\frac{3}{4}$
Black resist design
- 15 Dabs.** Dish
4 March, 1953, D 17 $\frac{7}{8}$
Black resist design
- 16 Flowers in a Vase.**
Jug, rim rolled inward
18 April, 1953, H 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Colored slip on biscuit
- 17 Daisies in a Vase.** Jug, rim rolled inward
18 April, 1953, H 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Colored slip on biscuit, painted, carved
- 18 Suns and Rays.** Jug
4 June, 1953, H 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fire clay with pastel slips
- 19 Four Faces.** Two-handled vase
4 June, 1953, H 13
Fire clay, pastel slips
- 20 Women and Silenus Head.**
Long-necked pitcher
3 July, 1953, H 14 $\frac{5}{8}$
Fire clay with white and black slip
- 21 Woman with Mirror, Groups of Figures.**
Jug
4 July, 1953, H 13 $\frac{3}{8}$
Fire clay with white and black slip

- 22 Bulls.** Jug
3 August, 1953, H 14 $\frac{5}{8}$
Black slip and white clay, incised
- 23 Pigeon.**
14 October, 1953, H 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Black slip, incised
- 24 Landscape.** Dish
9 December, 1953, D 16 $\frac{7}{8}$
Black slip with incised decoration picked out with tinted glazes
- 25 Head and Geometric Motifs.** Vase
19 December, 1953, H 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Incised decoration with slip and glaze on red
- 26 Landscape.** Dish
December, 1953, D 16 $\frac{7}{8}$
Glaze and white enamel on incised black slip
- 27 Figures.** Jug
Late 1953, H 11
White tin glaze on red, resist design
- 28 Two Hands Holding a Bird.**
Duck-shaped pitcher
c. 1953, H 15
Metal oxides on white tin glaze, incised
- 29 Painter and Model.** Jug
5 January, 1954, H 15
White tin glaze, resist design
- 30 Painter and Model.** Jug
6 January, 1954, H 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
White tin glaze, resist design
- 31 Men's Faces.** Two-handed vase
6 January, 1954, H 7 $\frac{7}{8}$
White tin glaze, resist design
- 32 Painter and Sculptor with Model.** Jug
7 January, 1954, H 11
White and green glazes, resist design
- 33 Circus Act.** Jug
9 January, 1954, H 14 $\frac{1}{8}$
White tin glaze, resist design
- 34 Face with Broken Nose.** Vase
9 January, 1954, H 26 $\frac{3}{4}$
Incised and glaze decoration on dark ground

CATALOGUE NUMBER 9





CATALOGUE NUMBERS 11, 13, 23

- 35 Stylized Bird.** Pitcher in shape of pigeon with flat tail
11 January, 1954, H 14 $\frac{5}{8}$
Incised decoration, black slip and white glaze with touches of copper green
- 36 Vase of Flowers.** Jug
12 January, 1954, H 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Incised and glaze decoration on black ground
- 37 Three Faces.** Jug
19 January, 1954, H 7 $\frac{1}{8}$
Incised and glaze decoration on black ground
- 38 Man's Face.** Dish
6 April, 1954, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 13
Carved under white glaze
- 39 Woman's Face.** Dish
6 April, 1954, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 13
Carved decoration under white glaze
- 40 Two Birds in a Cage.**
Jug, rim rolled inward
10 April, 1954, H 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Biscuit with colored slips, carved

- 41 **Two Faces.** Two-handed vase
1954, H 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Green-black copper glaze with slip
decoration
- 42 **Face.** Plate
c. 1954, D 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Slip wash with glaze, filled incised design
and touches of glaze
- 43 **Face.** Plate
c. 1954, D 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Colored glazes on biscuit
- 44 **Face.** Plate
c. 1954, D 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Colored glazes on biscuit
- 45 **Face.** Plate
c. 1954, D 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Biscuit, glaze-filled incised design
- 46 **Face.** Plate
c. 1954, D 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Biscuit, black slip with colored glazes
- 47 **Stylized Face.** Bowl
c. 1955, D 8 $\frac{3}{8}$
Enamelled decoration on blue glaze
ground

CATALOGUE NUMBER 31





CATALOGUE NUMBER 17

- 48 **Three Faces and Serpentes.** Long-necked pitcher
1956, H 15 $\frac{3}{4}$
Carved biscuit
- 49 **Girl in Chariot Drawn by Faun.** Plaque
9 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 13
Metal oxides an white tin glaze
- 50 **Faun and Owl.** Plate
28 April, 1957, D 16
Red clay, black decoration, partly glazed,
eyes and nose farmed by a kilnspur
Lent by Fine Arts Associates
- 51 **Bullfight.** Plate
15 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Painted in blue, black, red and green with
transparent glaze
Lent by Mrs. Albert D. Lasker
- 52 **Red and White Owl.**
22 February, 1953, H 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Painted terra cotta
Private collection, New York
- 53 **Owl.** Dish
27 March, 1957, D 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Red clay, brown and white slip, incised,
colored glaze decoration
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg
- 54 **Clawn.** Dish
31 March, 1957, D 17
Red clay, brown and white slip, incised,
colored glaze decoration
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg
- 55 **Clawn.** Dish
2 April, 1957, D 17
Red clay, brown and white slip, incised,
colored glaze decoration
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg
- 56 **Fish.** Dish
4 April, 1957, D 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Red clay, white slip, appliqué fish glazed
in blue, green and sepia
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg
- 57 **Seven Fish.** Dish
10 April, 1957, D 17 $\frac{1}{4}$
Red clay, white, yellow, blue and sepia
slip, incised
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg

- 58 **Big Black Fish.** Dish
 16 April, 1957, D 17 ¼
 Red clay, white, black, yellow and blue
 slip, incised
 Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Saidenberg
- 59 **Goat's Head.** Plate
 16 x 16
 Black, green and yellow decoration, glazed
 Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zadok
- 60 **Woman's Face.** Jug
 20 March, 1954, H 9
 White biscuit
- 61 **Jacqueline Roque.** Plate
 29 January, 1955, D 16 ½
 White biscuit
- 62 **Head of Sylvette.**
 31 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 63 **Fish.**
 31 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 64 **Fisherman under a Tree.**
 6 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 65 **Head of a Faun.**
 30 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 66 **Grasshopper.**
 31 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 67 **Bird.**
 31 March, 1955, D 6 ¾
 Red clay
- 68 **Faun's Head.** Plate
 28 June, 1955, D 10 ½
 White biscuit
- 69 **Bouquet and Apple.** Plate
 22 January, 1956, D 10 ½
 White biscuit
- 70 **Dancers.** Plaque
 Easter, 1956, D 10 ½
 White biscuit
- 71 **Goat.** Plate
 Easter, 1956, D 10 ½
 White biscuit

CATALOGUE NUMBER 28





CATALOGUE NUMBERS 29, 30

- 72 **Fish.** Dish
19 May, 1956, D 17
White biscuit
- 73 **Bathers.** Plaque
July, 1956, D 7 $\frac{7}{8}$
White biscuit
- 74 **Faun and Goat Dancing.** Plaque
July, 1956, D 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
White biscuit
- 75 **Dancers.** Plate
July, 1956, D 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
White biscuit
- 76 **Three Bathers.** Dish with domed center
August, 1956, D 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Moulded biscuit painted in black slip
and glazed
- 77 **Bull's Head.** Plaque
23 November, 1956, D 9 $\frac{3}{4}$
White biscuit
- 78 **Large Vase with Fish.**
1956, H 17 $\frac{7}{8}$
Red slip decoration

- 79 **Head.** Dish
D 16 $\frac{7}{8}$
White biscuit
- 80 **Cavalier.** Dish
D 17
White biscuit
- 81 **Cavalier and Flutist.** Dish
D 14 $\frac{1}{2}$
White biscuit
- 82 **Dancing Bacchante and Flute Player.**
Dish
D 13
White biscuit
- 83 **Face and Hands.** Dish
D 17
White biscuit
- 84 **Face with Ivy Leaves.** Dish
D 17
White biscuit
- 85 **Bullfight.** Plate
D 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
White tin glaze, black oxide decoration
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Sachs

CATALOGUE NUMBERS 32, 33



- 86 **Two Faces.** Vase
H 14 ½
White biscuit
- 87 **Two Faces.** Vase
H 14 ½
White biscuit
- 88 **Owl.** Vase
H 12 ½
White tin glaze, brown and black
decoration
Lent by Mrs. Jacques Français
- 89 **Four Faces.** Plate
1952, D 10 ¼
White tin glaze, raised decoration
Lent by Mrs. Jacques Français
- 90 **Goat and Goat's Head.** Vase
6 June, 1952, H 7 ½
Carved, black painted and glazed
decoration
Lent by Mrs. Jacques Français
- 91 **Head of a Woman.** Vase
H 11 ½
White tin glaze, black resist
Lent by Mrs. Jacques Français
- 92 **Head of a Woman.** Pitcher
1957, H 15 ½
Brown, black and green decoration
Lent by Mrs. Jacques Français

CATALOGUE NUMBER 4



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